

TOWN OF FALL LAKE

P.O. Box 599
Ely, Minnesota 55731

August 16, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners,

For quite some time now, we have been trying to enhance mobile broadband service in Lake County, Minnesota. Our County is in northern Minnesota, an area of the state that has been traditionally underserved with wireless broadband. In fact, we have had issues getting cell towers built because of our proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness area and concerns by outsiders for aesthetics.

This issue has made our residents here in Fall Lake Township feel like second-class citizens. We need equal access to mobile broadband technology. It is of the utmost importance for the health, safety and economic well-being of residents and visitors. We need access to the services and capabilities delivered through high-speed wireless connections.

Wireless broadband enables residents to start home-based businesses, telecommute or provide goods and services here on the Iron Range of Minnesota. It bridges the digital divide between rural and urban areas. It also gives residents access to telehealth applications, distance learning, the latest smartphones, tablets and other wireless devices and a host of other services and capabilities.

That is why we support the AT&T merger with T-Mobile, which promises expanded and improved wireless broadband. Such a combination would pay dividends for rural township like Fall Lake and result in a significant investment in hyper-speed wireless broadband across Northeast Minnesota.

If companies such as AT&T can deliver wireless broadband throughout rural Minnesota, that means a better economy, more jobs and a more vibrant, healthy community. That should be a priority for all of us. As such, I ask that you strongly consider the advantages that could be made possible through the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

Sincerely,



Mary Tome, Chair
Fall Lake Township
Lake County, MN